

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A glycopolymer containing a plurality of main chains, each said main chain comprising a main chain of a saccharide component and a second component, wherein said saccharide component is comprised of glucopyranose, wherein said second component is bonded to said saccharide component with a decomposable bond, and wherein each main chain is crosslinked ~~to the extent~~ such that the crosslinked main chains have a weight-average molecular weight that is at least twice that of the weight-average molecular weight of the main chains prior to crosslinking.

2. (Previously Presented) The glycopolymer according to claim 1, wherein said main chain is crosslinked with a bifunctional or polyfunctional aliphatic compound.

3. (Original) The glycopolymer according to claim 2, wherein said aliphatic compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of a dicarboxylic acid, a diol, a diamine and a diisocyanate.

4. (Original) The glycopolymer according to claim 2, wherein said aliphatic compound is polyvinyl alcohol.

5. (Original) The glycopolymer according to claim 2, wherein said main chains are crosslinked through the saccharide.

6. (Original) The glycopolymer according to claim 2, wherein said main chains are crosslinked through the second component.

7. (Currently Amended) A glycopolymer containing a plurality of molecular chains, each said molecular chain containing at least one kind of repeating unit, wherein said repeating unit includes a saccharide, and wherein said molecular chains are crosslinked with a saccharide crosslinking component, said saccharide crosslinking component comprised of glucopyranose, and wherein each said chain is crosslinked to ~~the~~ extent such that the crosslinked molecular chains have a weight-average molecular weight that is at least twice that of the weight-average molecular weight of the molecular chains prior to crosslinking.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The glycopolymer according to claim 7, wherein said molecular chains are crosslinked at the saccharide portions of the molecular chains.

10. (Previously Presented) The glycopolymer according to claim 7, wherein said molecular chains are crosslinked at portions other than the saccharide portions of the molecular chains.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A glycopolymer containing a plurality of molecular chains, each said chain containing at least one kind of repeating unit, wherein said repeating unit includes a compound having a vinyl group, and wherein said molecular chains are crosslinked with a saccharide crosslinking component, said crosslinking component comprised of glucopyranose, and wherein each said chain is crosslinked ~~to the~~ extent such that the crosslinked molecular chains have a weight-average molecular weight that is at least twice that of the weight-average molecular weight of the molecular chains prior to crosslinking.